



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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Disaster Workers Needed to Support Hurricane Recovery Efforts

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration is hiring loan officers and construction analysts to work in disaster field offices in the 11 states and Puerto Rico now recovering from a series of devastating hurricanes. The agency is also hiring staff to process disaster loans in SBA's four disaster area offices.

Those interested in temporary work as a loan officer should have banking and mortgage lending experience, as well as a background in analyzing financial statements and making credit decisions. Construction analysts are needed to perform property damage assessments, and should have experience in residential and commercial construction.

"The SBA's disaster recovery staff is working very hard in response to this unprecedented series of hurricanes, and the devastation they have caused in so many areas," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "They are facing challenging circumstances, and we deeply appreciate what they are doing to help these disaster victims rebuild their homes and businesses.

"The additional people we hire on the local level will not only ensure the continued speed of the disaster loan making process, but will contribute to the local economy as well," Barreto said.

The loan officer and damage inspector salaries range from \$26k to \$49k, plus overtime at \$19 to \$32 dollars per hour.

To apply for one of these positions, contact one of the SBA's disaster area offices at:

Disaster Area 1 – Niagara Falls, NY	(800) 659-2955
Disaster Area 2 – Atlanta, GA	(800) 359-2227
Disaster Area 3 – Fort Worth, TX	(800) 366-6303
Disaster Area 4 – Sacramento, CA	(800) 488-5323

During the last six weeks the SBA has mobilized 960 field staff working in disaster recovery centers in 11 states from Louisiana to Ohio, Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, making loans to residents and business owners.

So far the SBA has approved more than \$129 million in disaster loans to victims of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, Typhoon Chaba.

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The SBA makes low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and non-farm businesses of all sizes. Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair disaster damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture and clothing.

Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available to eligible businesses of all sizes and non-profit organizations to repair damage to real estate, machinery, equipment and inventory. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million are also available to small businesses unable to pay bills or meet operating expenses.

Interest rates can be as low as 3.187 percent for homeowners and renters and 2.9 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

To be considered for all forms of federal recovery assistance, disaster victims must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

For more information about SBA's disaster assistance program, visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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